

What is Claimed is:

1. A method of developing a device application for interacting with an outside application including the steps of:

installing a first driver module, the first driver module being one of a first native driver to operate on the device and an emulation of the first native driver;

installing a first interface module for managing communication between the first driver module and the outside application, wherein the first interface module is configured to operate with both the first native driver and the emulation of the first native driver; and

installing a driver locator module which, upon receipt of a communication from the outside application, locates one of a native driver to which the communication corresponds and an emulation thereof.

2. The method according to claim 1, wherein the outside application is a Java application.

3. The method according to claim 1, wherein the steps are performed on a work station and wherein the device application is for an embedded device.

4. The method according to claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

installing a second driver module, the second driver module being one of a second native driver to operate on the device and an emulation of the second native driver;

installing a second interface module for managing communication between the

second driver module and the outside application, wherein the second interface module is configured to operate with both the second native driver and the emulation of the second native driver.

5. The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of utilizing a graphical interface on a work station to simulate interaction with the device application via device hardware.

6. A software package for developing a device application for interacting with an outside application comprising:

a first driver module being one of a first native driver to operate on the device and an emulation of the first native driver;

a first interface module for managing communication between the first driver module and the outside application, wherein the first interface module is configured to operate with both the first native driver and the emulation of the first native driver; and

a driver locator module which, upon receipt of a communication from the outside application, locates one of a native driver to which the communication corresponds and an emulation thereof.

7. The software package according to claim 6, wherein the outside application is a Java application.

8. The software package according to claim 6, wherein the software package operates on a work station and wherein the device application is for an embedded device.

9. The software package according to claim 6, further comprising :

a second driver module being one of a second native driver to operate on the device and an emulation of the second native driver;

a second interface module for managing communication between the second driver module and the outside application, wherein the second interface module is configured to operate with both the second native driver and the emulation of the second native driver.

10. The software package according to claim 6, further comprising a graphical interface to simulate on a workstation interaction with the device application via device hardware.

11. A software package for developing on a workstation an application for interaction between an embedded device and an outside application comprising:

first and second driver modules, each of the first and second driver modules being one of a native driver to operate on the device and an emulation of the native driver;

first and second interface modules for managing communication between the outside application and the first and second driver modules, respectively, wherein the first and second interface modules are configured to operate with both native drivers and emulations thereof;

a driver locator module which, upon receipt of a communication from the outside application, locates one of a native driver to which the communication corresponds and an emulation thereof; and

a graphical interface module simulating interaction between outside application and the first and second driver modules via the embedded device hardware.

12. A software development system, comprising:

a host development platform having at least one software development tool;

a connection between the host development platform and a target system including a target operating environment, the target operating environment having a driver interface corresponding to an actual device driver;

a device simulator system including:

an emulated device driver accessed by the target system via the connection when the actual device driver is not present in the target system.

13. The software development system according to claim 12, wherein the host development platform includes a target agent accessible to the at least one software development tool and coupled to the connection.

14. The software development system according to claim 12, wherein the connection includes a TCP/IP link to the target system.

15. The software development system according to claim 12, wherein the device simulator system further includes an emulator interface corresponding to the simulated device driver.

16. A software development system, comprising:

a host development platform having at least one software development tool for developing a software application for a target system having a driver interface

corresponding to an actual device driver to be used in the target system;

a device simulator system including an emulated device driver accessed when the actual device driver is not present.

17. A software development system, comprising:

a target operating environment, including:

a device driver interface corresponding to an actual device driver;

and

a driver locator module; and

a device simulator, including an emulated device driver adapted for operation with the device driver interface, wherein the driver locator directs access via the device driver interface to the emulated device driver when the actual device driver is not present in the target operating environment.

18. The software development system according to claim 17, the device simulator further including an emulation user interface corresponding to the simulated device driver and wherein the emulation user interface is displayed during access of the emulated device driver.

19. The software development system according to claim 17, wherein the target operating system is located on a target hardware platform and the device simulator is located on a host development platform.

20. The software development system according to claim 17, wherein the wherein the target system environment and the device simulator are located on a host development platform.

21. The software development system according to claim 17, the target operating environment further including a core module, the core module executing the device locator module upon an access via the device driver interface.

22. The software development system according to claim 17, the target operating environment further including a Java Native Interface module and a Java Native Interface class corresponding to the actual device driver.